

Original Goals

1. To serve as a nonprofit enterprise.
2. To remain non-partisan in politics.
3. To remain neutral in religious matters.
4. To print news accurately and regularly.
5. To make its pages an open forum for civic affairs.
6. To develop a staff of volunteer writers.
7. To create a "Good Neighbor" spirit, promote friendships, advance the common good and develop a "Greenbelt philosophy" of life.

— November 24, 1937

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

Special Anniversary Issue Supplement

November 29, 2007

Elaine Skolnik Looks Back Over 50 News Review Years

by Sandra A. Lange

The grand dame of the Greenbelt News Review turned 80 this month. Elaine Skolnik has spent nearly 50 of her 80 years at the helm of the News Review. The News Review, she explains, is a metaphor for her life, the cause of many joyous moments as well as occasional sorrow.

Her journey began shortly after she arrived in Greenbelt in 1952 with her husband Al and her two daughters, 4 year-old Barbara and 1 year-old Rita. Their son Richard was born in 1957. Elaine describes Greenbelt as love at first sight. "Oh, those tall pines and oaks, the lake, the large green areas on which the playgrounds beckoned to the children, the co-operative baby sitting club, the co-op nursery school and kindergarten. It was such a sweet life," she remembers fondly.

Al's dream of being a journalist became a reality when he joined the News Review staff. Of her own skills, Elaine modestly proclaims, "I had no talent for writing" although she took over the "Our Neighbors" column in 1954. She saw her role as supporting Al's keen interest in Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) board meetings and his fascination with city budgets.

During the 1950s the News Review suffered its own budget crisis. The paper depended then as now on advertising. Delivered free to every home in Greenbelt, the all-volunteer staff struggled financially from week to week to print the news. Elaine chaired the first of several fund drives held over the years. It was her first taste of civic activism and her first foray in fighting for a cause she held dear.

Her first big development story occurred in 1968 when the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) presented the Greenbelt/College Park Master Plan. "Who could forget the nearly 1,000 persons protesting the Master Plan at the Center School (now the Community Center) gym," she recalls passionately. Citizens fought against high density zoning within the core of Greenbelt. The next bitter fight a decade later brought the community together to prevent a high school from being built on Northway extended which would have caused the widening of Ridge Road to accommodate school bus and automobile traffic." She laughs while remembering how "we got no respect from the Board of Education. In fact we were dubbed 'those Greenbelt kooks,'" she recalls. But after a five-year battle, in 1976 "the much needed high school, prestigious Eleanor Roosevelt High School, was built in Greenbelt East." She smiles



PHOTO BY JUDI BORDEAUX

The News Review Staff celebrated News Editor Elaine Skolnik's 80th birthday on Friday, June 10 at the Greenbelt Marriott. Richard Skolnik, Elaine and Jeannette Zubkoff are seated at the head table.

with satisfaction.

The low point came with what she describes as the "devastating four year lawsuit against the News Review and its president, my soul mate Al." It was the summer of 1966 when Elaine stood in the kitchen of her house on Northway stirring chocolate pudding. A knock came at the door, and a man in uniform handed her some papers. She was stunned to discover that the News Review and Al Skolnik were being sued for \$2 million by a local real estate developer. The suit charged that the paper had published defamatory remarks made against the developer by citizens at public sessions of the Greenbelt City Council in October 1965. A Prince George's County jury in January, 1968, found the remarks libelous and a \$17,500 judgment was awarded to the developer. The case went to the Maryland Court of Appeals a year later and was upheld. In a 1970 landmark decision, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously overturned the lower court's ruling. The Greenbelt News Review was responsible for updating the libel laws of Maryland and broadening

the constitutional defenses of reporters against libel suits, Elaine proudly proclaims.

The victory was sweet, coming after four agonizing years. Elaine recalls that "Al dream[ed] that when he retired he would devote himself full time on his beloved newspaper."

But such was not to be. Al suffered a fatal heart attack on his way home from work in March 1977. He was 56 years old. The late Roger Clark, the attorney who represented them in the libel suit, described Al as a person who "responded with courage, vigor, perseverance and a healthy outrage. It is because of men like him that our freedoms remain inviolate."

Elaine assumed the presidency of the News Review.

She married her second husband Victor Nicholson in 1985 and soon after immersed herself in Vic's dreams concerning the future of cable TV.

Elaine Skolnik Nicholson is still engaged in her journey.

"You pick your niche" in life, she affirms. Surely, the citizens of Greenbelt have benefitted from the niche this grand lady has carved.

— June 16, 2005



PHOTO BY MARY MOIEN

The Greenbelt News Review held an open house on Greenbelt Day to entice new volunteers to join. Many Greenbelters dropped in to see the workings of the paper and to eat cookies baked by Solange Hess. Pictured from left to right are staffers Kathie Jarva, Solange Hess, Carol Griffith, Eileen Farnham (hidden), Sue Krofchik, Barbara Likowski, Marat Moore and Stacy L. Hardy.



Our Special Issue

Every five years, we publish a special insert focusing on the previous five years of publication.

We look for some of our favorite (or necessary) editorials, letters about us (for and against) or about important or nutty issues, items that make us laugh or cry or roll our eyes, good stories, good writing, and, in this issue particularly – some of our outstanding staff. For smoother reading, we have taken excerpts of most letters and stories but omitted the ellipses (. . .).

The selection, a few new stories and word processing was done by staff members Sandra Lange, Carol Griffith, Judi Bordeaux, Nancy Tolzman, Barbara Likowski, Jessi Britton, Mary Moien, Robin Everly, Eve Gresser, Pat Davis, Larry Hull, Linda Paul, Eileen Farnham and Mary Lou Williamson. Paula Clin-edinst, Brian St. George and Dea Zugby obtained the special advertising to pay for the special edition with the help of Sue Krofchik and Marie Wong processed the additional ads.

Editorial

It's Not Magic

It's Friday in Greenbelt and you find the Greenbelt News Review at your doorstep, in the lobby of your apartment or condominium building, at various public buildings and at private businesses throughout the city. Ever wonder how this locally-produced, independent, free newspaper appears week after week, keeping people who live and work in Greenbelt aware of what goes on in our lively town?

Well, it's not magic.

Rather, it results week in, week out from volunteer efforts of many of your friends and neighbors. News gathering; reporting on city and community events; capturing in print and photography the lives and stories of Greenbelt and its residents; chronicling the vibrant history and culture of our city; providing a vehicle for your letters (celebrating, praising, even condemning); publishing city, business and community notices on events, information and advertising important to the economic health of the community – all these activities make up the weekly cycle of labor performed by dedicated volunteers.

Maintaining this cycle of activities and assuring that all parts work seamlessly together requires a continuing source of talent and service. That work begins each Monday and continues through Thursday morning. Different tasks are performed at each of these times – receiving ads on Monday, typing and editing on Tuesday, proofing and putting the issue to bed on Wednesday and final proofing on Thursday morning before the issue is sent to the printer. Of course news gathering, reporting on meetings and events, along with photography, occur whenever an event is scheduled and sometimes when it's not. Writing feature stories and taking feature photographs can take place at any time. And there are a variety of administrative and business tasks, many of which are not tied to a specific day. Selling and/or designing ads is an important need. The important thing is that participants can pick and choose where they might be able to help.

The paper is always in need of volunteers in all areas of its mission – a need becoming more critical recently as key volunteers are often away from the city for job, personal or other reasons. If you have thought of volunteering or offering your talent or service to the paper, now is a good time to take that step. You could begin within your area of interest, gradually learning the routine and the tasks. And if you're new to Greenbelt and even if you're not, volunteering at the News Review is a great way to learn about the community.

We are the second oldest cooperative in Greenbelt – now beginning our 70th year. Through all these years, providing a window into the life of the community has been our joy and our commitment. If you would like to take part in this important work, you will find us a welcoming team.

— October 12, 2006

Letters to the Editor

Article a Relief

I would like to thank the Greenbelt News Review, writer Anne Sucher and peace activist Esther Webb for the excellent article on the front page of the March 27 issue.

The article vividly describes Webb's opposition to the United States' invasion of Iraq and shows how her current actions connect with the rest of her long and fruitful life. The article was a relief to me after reading The Washington Post and New York Times last week. In these national newspapers, I found only superficial references to many Americans' enduring desire for peace and diplomacy, not war against Iraq.

I am proud of the Greenbelt News Review for printing an in-depth story on the topic that other newspapers have glossed over. In future issues of the News Review I hope to read equally inspiring stories about how other local residents are working for peace.

Owen Kelly.
— April 13, 2003

Well Done!

Congratulations and a hearty well-done to the staff of the News Review. The 24-page issue of November 1 represents a huge workload for the staff of volunteers. Greenbelt is a lucky community to have such public-spirited citizens willing to donate their time and effort to this purpose.

Harry Zubkoff
Editor Emeritus
— November 8, 2007

Neighborly Shoppers Drown Out Muzak

I was in the Co-op the other day. I was at the checkout and there were perhaps two or three people at each lane and some folks milling around. And I noticed something.

You couldn't hear the Muzak for all the talking. There was a buzz of conversation. A hum of friendly chatter that completely drowned out the recorded music retailers use to disguise sterility. You can go to any other grocery

store 10 times the size and not hear any voices joined in community. People stand silently at the checkouts avoiding each other's eyes.

At the Co-op it takes me three times as long to do my shopping because I bump into neighbors and friends and we chat a while. Time well spent.

Cathie Meetre
— February 5, 2004

Feels Left Out

Bella was disappointed she didn't appear in the News Review for the Pooch Plunge this year. It would have been her 5th consecutive year in the paper.

She wanted everyone to know how much braver she's become. (Just last year, she was a bit embarrassed when you printed a fabulously cute but somewhat unflattering photo of her resolutely gripping Linda/mom while in the pool.) She's worked very hard and this year, Bella has perfected the delicate toe testing of the water as she prepares to dive in (although she still can't read).

Linda Guttman
— September 27, 2007

Greenbelt Is Great

On October 14 I joined many other Greenbelters in watching the 1939 documentary "The City" in the University of Maryland's Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. At one point during the introductory commentaries, every Greenbelter was asked to stand up. It all was so impressive: the talks, Aaron Copland's music, the movie. One was engulfed by Greenbelt's Utopian uniqueness.

Afterward, many of us met again in the Greenbelt Community Center for a panel discussion. It became a celebration of the early years, so child- and safety-oriented with Greenbelt's planned network of inner walkways and underpasses.

When the moderator opened the floor for questions and comments, I made these remarks:

Having lived in Greenbelt for 50 years, in the beginning our young family fully benefited from all our city had to offer. And then, many years later, something very interesting happened. By that time I had become a member of the Senior Citizen Advisory Board. And who did I meet there? Several mothers who I originally had met in the Greenbelt Co-operative Nursery School, where we all were participating Helping Mothers! From Nursery School to Senior Advisory Board: people just stay in Greenbelt. And where originally Greenbelt was a glowing example of the services and facilities it offered its young families, right now it is, in addition, a glowing example of the services and facilities it offers its senior citizens. And again it is unique: which other city has staff members who develop and execute a Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program for its seniors? We, the seniors, are thankful that we are so lucky to live here. We can stay in our own houses, thanks to our wonderful staff member, Resource Advocate Christal Batey.

Space does not permit me to go into detail of the GAIL program, which now is part of Greenbelt CARES, another unique program of the city's Social Services Department. But I do want

Grin Belt



"The new council has a long agenda of tough nuts to crack!"

— November 10, 2005

to thank from the bottom of my heart council and staff and every volunteer who has made all this possible. Thanks to them, our city departments have grown from being "young family oriented" to also "accommodate the Graying of America." Thanks to all your efforts it still is so true:

GREENBELT IS GREAT!

Leonie Penney
— October 25, 2007

Old News

Thanks to the News Review for publishing my article about Greenbelt Nursery School's Kindergarten Night. Unfortunately, the article published was written about the 2001 Kindergarten Night, not the more recent 2002 Kindergarten Night. While the article is still generally accurate, I would like to mention that Greenbelt Elementary and St. Hugh's Schools both sent representatives to the 2002 Kindergarten night. These women explained their schools' philosophies and logistics for their full-day kindergarten programs. Parents should contact schools for more information.

Amy Hansen
— February 6, 2003

News Stories Should Not Include Opinion

The Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists (www.spj.org) states that "Journalists should distinguish between advocacy and news reporting. Analysis and commentary should be labeled and not misrepresent fact or context."

Even though they are volunteers, the News Review should provide appropriate training and exercise adequate oversight to ensure that its employees follow the

code of ethics established by and for professional journalists whom they emulate.

Robert Fireovid

Editor's Note: Robert Fireovid's first paragraph cites what our reporters strive for — hard news and facts, no opinions — but the two examples he gives seem to us not to rise to the level of angst he displays.

— January 5, 2006

Legitimate Criticism

I find it sad, but typical, that the News Review answers a newcomer's legitimate criticism (Robert Fireovid's letter, Jan. 5) with snide remarks.

Don Comis

Editor's Note: We can always use more help.

— January 12, 2006

Omission

The editors of the News Review deliberately omitted a few lines from my letter last week concerning the visit of the Queen of England. Perhaps they considered them too controversial but they should remember that Greenbelters have always enjoyed controversy starting with the first paper in 1937 known as the Cooperator, that encouraged citizens to express personal opinions. Also, I did not personally see any county police cars though they may have been beyond K-Mart.

Margaret D. Zanin

Editor's Note: Sometimes letters are edited for brevity or civility.

— May 24, 2007

Editorial

An Opportunity Worth Pursuing

Greenbelt and Prince George's County should be proud that a major property owner is considering investing more than a half billion dollars to redevelop the Springhill Lake apartment complex. Apartment Investment and Management Company's (AIMCO) interest in redeveloping one of the area's largest apartment communities recognizes in a practical sense that Greenbelt continues to be suitable for quality housing. We urge the city and county governments to give well-considered but swift responses to AIMCO's development proposals for Springhill Lake.

AIMCO's initial proposal is to tear down in phases and replace the existing nearly 3,000 apartment units with 4,500 new ones. As set forth in a charette conducted by the noted urban planning firm, Duany Platter-Zyberk and Company (DPZ), the new apartment buildings would have a variety of styles — townhouses, sixplexes, four-story elevator apartments, luxury executive suites and twin tower buildings. That plan also calls for a few owner-occupied townhouses, about 260 units. Also proposed are the replacement of Springhill Lake Elementary School with a new school, a large lake where the school now is located and the replacement of the city's Springhill Lake Recreation Center with a new facility.

This proposal is consistent with most objectives of the 1999 Greenbelt Metro Area Study of the Prince George's Planning Department. That plan called for an alternate scenario for Springhill Lake to redevelop the area in whole or in part into a high-quality, medium density residential community linked to the planning strategies for Beltway Plaza and the Metro property. With its orientation toward the Greenbelt Metro Station and the proposed Greenbelt Station development and with Springhill Lake's proximity to major highways, the DPZ proposal for AIMCO is consistent with Smart Growth, a public policy that seeks to concentrate future growth in areas with easy access to public transit and established road networks. However, the DPZ plan differs from the county council adopted Greenbelt Metro Area Sector Plan in that it proposes greater density and little owner-occupied housing.

We would prefer to have more owner-occupied housing, as we believe owners are more concerned with their property and more committed to their community. We also would like to know more about the impact of the added housing units upon traffic, schools and public services. We seek greater assurance that the proposed development maintains a high standard of quality and does not again become a problem requiring excessive police resources. We also believe better answers are needed about what will become of existing tenants and what will be done to assure they obtain suitable housing. These issues should be thoroughly considered and resolved without delay.

Speaking for AIMCO, Joe DeTuno noted the company's four choices relating to its Springhill Lake property: to tear down and replace the existing development, to rehabilitate the existing apartments, to do nothing or to sell the project. AIMCO has ruled out rehabilitation and inaction. We are not aware of any interested buyers with financial resources to undertake either redevelopment or rehabilitation.

We agree with City Councilmember Edward Puten's statement that "Unless Springhill Lake changes, it will change Greenbelt."

Something needs to be done about Springhill Lake. AIMCO has a plan that appears to be good for the city and the county and has the capability to make it work. At present we do not know of a better alternative. The city and county should not let this opportunity get away.

— February 5, 2004

Happy 70th
Anniversary
Greenbelt
News Review
from GIVES

Happy 70th Anniversary
to the Greenbelt News Review from the
Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee

Virginia Beauchamp Inducted Into Md. Women's Hall of Fame

by Mary Moien

Greenbelter Virginia Beauchamp is a "shero," according to Adrienne Mandel, outgoing president of the Women Legislators of Maryland, representing women in the Maryland General Assembly. Beauchamp was one of six women inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in Annapolis on March 26. Beauchamp was honored for being an educator, author, journalist and community activist who has made significant contributions to the status of women and to women's literature and history.

Governor Robert Ehrlich, Jr. and Lieutenant Governor Michael S. Steele both made an appearance. While waiting for their arrival, speakers had been describing the need for a new and visible location for the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. When the governor took the podium,

he first commented about how he was surrounded by "strong women" in both his personal and professional life. He then stated that he thought the Hall of Fame should be in the State House where it could be part of the walking tour of Annapolis.

The lieutenant governor then laughingly said that he has discovered that he is the chair of the State House trust and will do his part to see the Hall of Fame move to that location. Mrs. Ehrlich briefly spoke and indicated that she hopes to take part in the History of Women in Maryland project.

During Mandel's presentation she recounted how women are seldom called to center stage. They are often working behind the scenes. She referred to the six awardees as "sheroes." She pointed proudly to the number of women in the Maryland Leg-

islature: 62 in this session. That represents one-third of the general assembly. Maryland ranks third in the country in number of women elected to the general assemblies.

Beauchamp Award

William E. Kirwan, University of Maryland Systems Chancellor, presented Beauchamp's award. He recalled working with her when he was the president, University of Maryland College Park. Beauchamp "dedicated her career to elevating the status of women," Kirwan stated, adding that she was the quintessential example of how a genuinely good person can finish first. He recounted that she is a "pioneer in the scholarship of women," who also fought for greater salary equity for women at the university as well as an increase in the presence of women in senior positions.

— May 3, 2003



PHOTO BY HELEN SYDAVAR

Barbara Likowski holds one of the many citations that she received following the announcement of her 2007 Outstanding Citizen award. At right is Outstanding Committee Chairperson Bob Zugby.

Barbara Likowski Named 2007 Outstanding Citizen

by Virginia Beauchamp

This has been my gig for many years — so many I can't remember when it all began. I'm talking about the News Review story announcing the annual selection of Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen. Sometimes I've known that person; sometimes he or she has been a complete stranger, traveling in different circles from those in which I move.

The case this year is a little different. Not only have I previously known the winner but I have worked with her for 36 years, right here — week in and week out — at the editing desk of this paper. So it was a true pleasure to hear her name called out by committee chair Bob Zugby — The Outstanding Citizen for 2007: Barbara Likowski.

Greenbelt

Since 1966, when she and her husband, the late Julius Likowski, came to Greenbelt, she has lived in the same GHI house on Hillside Road, where she raised two children, Alex and Betsy.

During most of the years since then, until her retirement, she worked as a substitute teacher in Greenbelt Elementary School and

taught the prototype after-school program there under a grant from the Casey Foundation for children at risk.

Much of her volunteer work has also been devoted to children's needs. She taught Sunday School classes at her church and led a local Brownie troop. She was a member of the PTA in the schools her children attended and a Girl Scout volunteer. In another context she was a charter member of both the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club and Citizens for Greenbelt.

But in 1971 she joined those of us already working as staff members on this paper and soon made herself indispensable. Sometime in the 1980s she became the paper's assistant editor, a position she has held ever since.

The accuracy of her proof-reading eye is remarkable and her care with every detail of the paper's obituary articles is noteworthy. And on Tuesday nights, when the paper is put to bed — however late that may be — Barbara Likowski is one of the very last to close the door.

— September 6, 2007

Greenbelt's Old Curmudgeon Cartoonist "Izzy Parker" Dies

by Virginia Beauchamp

Greenbelt's Old Curmudgeon — the News Review's cartoonist Isadore ("Izzy") Parker — died Monday, October 11, 2004, at the age of 84, following several years of failing health.

Izzy's association with this paper began when it was still called The Cooperator. He served as editor from June to December 1949.

Even then he was providing cartoons to illustrate and enliven everyday life in this planned community. Many of those earliest cartoons, he was pleased to note, are in circulation today. Dealing with carpooling — then a new phenomenon — they turn up on the internet, he said, in an era when carpooling is ubiquitous. Just look under the topic of "carpools."

Izzy returned to Greenbelt, joining the News Review again as our official cartoonist in 1997. Since then he has been lampooning local events in Greenbelt as well as national issues that bothered him.

Izzy loved to join the staff in the News Review office on Tuesday afternoons, even in recent months, scheduling his dialysis sessions to leave his Tuesdays free. He called time spent with the largely female staff his "social occasion." He loved being among all these women, he used to say.

From May 2003 to May 2004, the Greenbelt Museum sponsored a retrospective exhibit of his career in cartooning from his earliest days with The Cooperator to some of the most recent versions appearing in the News Review, as well as some of his paintings.

Izzy worked for the Prince George's County Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission from May 1959 until his retirement in July 1985. But that work was preceded by a stint for a private construction company that received the contract for initial planning of the Capital Beltway. Izzy personally designed one of the highway



Isadore "Izzy" Parker

bridges near Wisconsin Avenue in Montgomery County.

At Park and Planning he was chief of the Zoning Division, where he had the responsibility to write technical staff reports on zoning applications. "It was a tough position," said his former superior, Jack Downs, because at the time there were no planning guidelines. Downs recalled that at Izzy's retirement ceremony at Park and Planning, Downs emphasized the three P's — Parker, "professionalism" and "pride" in his work.

— October 14, 2004

It Happened in Greenbelt . . .

In the 1950s Izzy Parker's full-time job was working as a draftsman in the Naval Hydrographic Office. He commuted to Washington for his federal government job during the day, volunteered for the community newspaper at night and raised a family.

Then an extraordinary thing happened to Izzy Parker. He was accused of being friendly with communists and was suspended from his Navy Department job along with four other Jewish employees of the Naval Hydrographic Office, all of whom lived in Greenbelt.

Parker suffered quietly. The Navy would not divulge the names of his accusers. He would get a hearing, but he would never know exactly what the charges were against him or who had made them.

During this same period of time, some very conservative people in Greenbelt were opposed to the formation of a housing cooperative. They thought that people who joined cooperatives were communists. Some people called Greenbelt "Commiebelt."

Parker suspects that his position on the Cooperator staff

also got him in trouble. When he wrote an editorial stating that it was not in the cooperative spirit for the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion to refuse to loan their bingo equipment to the Jewish Community Center, he earned the ire of the American Legion. He received several threatening phone calls warning him against printing the editorial.

Guilt by association instilled fear into many Greenbelt citizens. Some people told Parker that they did not want to put their jobs at risk, so they would no longer associate with him. Others, however, came to his aid and attested to his loyalty when he finally received a hearing 11 months after being suspended.

Parker was exonerated. But he had to work during the 11 months he was unemployed. He sold shoes and did other odd jobs during the holidays, evenings and weekends. Once cleared by the Navy, he was entitled to back pay, minus anything he had earned during his suspension. Thus, his back pay amounted to about \$42, which he says didn't make a dent in his lawyer's fees.

— Sandra A. Lange, May 4, 2003

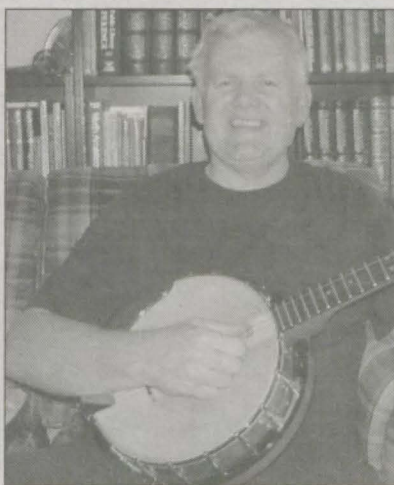
Congratulations to the Greenbelt News Review for 70 years of excellent news coverage and service to the Greenbelt community.

Judith "J" Davis

The families of Paul and Frank of Remenick's Improvements wish The News Review a Happy Birthday on their 70th and many, many more!

Paul Remenick

Frank Gomez



A Debt of Gratitude

Many people volunteer their skills each week to put out this community newspaper. Very few are indispensable. But one whose work had indeed become indispensable to us will no longer be filling that position – Neil McLeod. Not only was he indispensable, he was mostly invisible, needing to do his work when no one would be using the computers. Thus, only a few on our staff knew him or realized the significance of his contributions.

The Greenbelt News Review has benefitted over the last three years from McLeod's work to keep us online and in business on our networked computers. Working long hours on short notice, often at night, he performed like the cobbler's elves to produce working equipment from chaos.

We have lost a most valuable player.

– July 6, 2006

Marat Moore, Coal Miner to Author To Civic Activist, Finds Home Here

by Sandra A. Lange

It is hard to imagine blonde, blue-eyed Marat Moore as a tough, grimy-faced female plunging into a mine shaft to work. Why would this petite Greenbelt woman choose to spend a year working in the mines of West Virginia?

It all began in 1976 when Moore (her given name is Jean but a recurring dream influenced her to change her name to Marat) was a 22-year old co-ed. She decided to take time off from college to work on her hometown daily newspaper in Johnson City, Tenn.

When word reached the city desk of the Scotia mining disaster in Letcher County, Ky., none of the seasoned reporters wanted to travel 90 miles to cover the story. So, the editor asked Moore if she would go.

When she arrived at the mine, she was saddened that 15 men had died in seconds. Two days later the mine exploded again, killing 11 mine rescuers and federal inspectors. Thus began her life-long passion to address unsafe working conditions faced by miners.

Moore finished college at Duke University the following May and became a VISTA volunteer in Mingo County, W.Va., where she met a woman miner who was willing to sneak Moore underground one night. Instead of feeling claustrophobic, Moore describes her exhilaration at being in the eerie darkness and awed by the sight of fossilized ferns embedded into the slate mine roof.

Her friend persuaded the mine superintendent into hiring Moore and she began her year-long odyssey into the United States Steel No. 20 mine in Thacker, W.Va. She shoveled coal near the underground conveyor belt, built concrete block walls in the mine tunnels and hung ventilation curtains near mine walls.

Following her stint in the mines, Moore began to research the history of women coal miners in the United States and in other countries, and interviewed undocumented U.S. workers who had worked underground as early as the 1920s. Then she went to work for the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in Washington, D.C., as a writer and photographer, developing investigative articles on mine safety and championing the rights of female mine workers. Moore met her future husband, Steve, at a UMWA benefit at the Kennedy Center when they joined hands



Marat Moore

for the labor anthem "Solidarity Forever."

Greenbelt

Moore loves being in Greenbelt. She and Steve bought a GHI house on Hillside Road in 2001. She had intended to move back to her rural roots in Appalachia. But a friend invited her to swim in the Greenbelt pool. Then she and Steve saw Greenbelt Lake and they were hooked. She read Cathy Knepper's book "The Living Legacy of the New Deal." Afterward, in typical Marat Moore fashion, she visited Knepper in her Kensington home to learn more about Greenbelt. That interview convinced her that Greenbelt was the place she and Steve needed to establish their home.

"Living in Greenbelt is like being in a summer camp all year long," she says. She loves what she describes as Greenbelt's passionate commitment to its historical ideals of community life. It reminds her of her small town roots in Appalachia. Soon after moving here, she joined the staff

of the News Review, a comfortable niche for her writing and photographic talents. She's now on the GHI Audit Committee where she can participate more fully in the housing cooperative and has participated in simplicity groups where people gather to talk about issues like making time for what's really important and sustainable living. She devotes a good deal of time in care giving, especially for her mother in Tennessee who suffers from Alzheimer's.

Future Interests

With her boundless energy, Moore hopes to write historical fiction centered on life in Mingo County and on the historical figure of Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, a labor agitator and orator called "The Miner's Angel." Mother Jones is a heroine to Moore. She admires the fiery orator for her crusading role in fighting for decent wages, improved working conditions and an end to child labor.

Last fall Moore helped organize a commemoration to the life of Mother Jones who died in Silver Spring in 1930. She also wants to memorialize Mother Jones in West Virginia where she spent so much time championing the rights of miners.

Another of Moore's future projects involves traveling U.S. Route 11, from New Orleans to Canada, documenting the history of the small towns along the way, in the style of the late TV commentator Charles Kuralt. She met Kuralt years ago in Tennessee and was impressed with his focus on everyday people. "If I hadn't fallen in love with Greenbelt, I'd be back there now," she smiles, her blue eyes shining. To Moore, the challenges are endless.

– March 15, 2007



PHOTO BY SANDRA A. LANGE

Celebrating the News Review's 60th anniversary are past and present editors. From left, back row – Dorothy Sucher, Harry Zubkoff, Russ Greenbaum, Barbara Likowski (asst. editor), Izzy Parker and Ellie Ritchie. Front row – Elaine Skolnik (president emeritus and news editor), Virginia Beauchamp, Mary Lou Williamson (current editor) and Mary Granofsky.

Farewell to Mary Granofsky

by Sandra A. Lange

Some 10 years ago a woman wandered down a short flight of stairs to the basement headquarters of the Greenbelt News Review. Timidly she approached the editor. She didn't like to write and she couldn't type – but she could spell. Did the News Review have any need of such a person?

As often happens, the editor and his assistants were busy handling one crisis involving city council and another involving GHI and another involving controversial letters-to-the-editor. It was a typical Tuesday night and no one talked much to the new person or showed her anything to do so she wandered out again.

It was six months before she returned. A call had gone out urging anyone with an interest in community service to come to the News Review and the woman was spurred to come back. The people were again frenzied and desperate for help – another typical Tuesday night. This time, however, the editor taught her how to count letters

for headlines and Mary Granofsky (formerly Smith) carved her niche in the News Review. For the next nine years she taught everyone who came down to work on the paper how to count letters for headlines.

A little over a year later Mary became assistant editor. "Everyone else was having babies," she said. By this time also she was doing the make-up on Wednesday nights and often went down to the print shop on Thursday mornings to read the page proofs.

In 1967 Mary became editor. It was a position she did not welcome but one she held for five and a half years, until the fall of 1972, when she again assumed the smaller responsibilities of assistant editor.

"Greenbelt was the best place to raise children . . . and the News Review is the best thing for the town," Mary observed. "I got to know how the town worked . . . I lived in Greenbelt for 16 years . . . it was tough to leave."

– September 6, 1973

Date: November 29, 2007

Subject: Commitment

Memo To:

**The Greenbelt News Review
Staff and Volunteers**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
70 YEARS OF DEDICATED
SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS
OF GREENBELT!**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Ed
Ed Putens

P.S. Do it again!

Congratulations

to the
News Review

on

70 years

of

Terrific Service

You are a community treasure!

Greenbelt Community Church, UCC

Periodical Cicadas in Greenbelt; Ready or Not, Here They Come!

by Steve Frank

In mid-May, cicadas will emerge in Maryland and other parts of the Northeast. In Greenbelt we can expect a spectacular show by these rare and fascinating, albeit noisy, creatures, particularly in Old Greenbelt, with its many large trees and minimal recent development that would have dug up or paved over the cicadas' underground burrows.

Love 'em or hate 'em, the periodical cicadas will emerge. So put screens in the windows, protect your young trees and then relax and prepare to be dazzled by their strange appearance, varied songs and sheer abundance.

The brown, wingless cicada nymphs have been underground since 1987 and have been feeding on sap from tree roots. During this, the 17th year, they have burrowed to within inches of the surface and are just waiting for warmer weather. Over the course of three to five days in mid-May, the cicada nymphs will emerge from their burrows at night and climb a nearby tree, house or other vertical structure. They latch on to the structure with their legs and begin to molt and adults emerge from the shiny brown shell. The adult cicadas require a few days for their new exoskeleton to harden before they are ready to begin their mating ritual.

— April 22, 2004

The Old Curmudgeon



"There's a cicada in my soup... my dessert... my hair... my pants...!"

— April 22, 2004

J.J. PARKER ©2004

The Queen of England Makes Stop in Greenbelt



PHOTO BY CLAUDIA KROGEL

The queen greets Goddard employees who gathered along the sidewalks between buildings during her tour.

— May 10, 2007

Editorial

It's Your Paper. Celebrate It!

The News Review will be holding an open house on Greenbelt Day weekend to reveal the secrets of how the nation's longest-running cooperative newspaper has kept publishing every week for nearly 70 years without missing a deadline. Join us on Sunday, June 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. in our office in the Community Center. See how the paper is put together and learn how you can get involved if you're interested.

— May 24, 2007

Three-alarm Greenbriar Fire Claims a Life, Injures Nine

by Elaine Skolnik and Judy Bell

The three-alarm fire which occurred Friday, November 21 in a Greenbriar condominium apartment building at 7806 Hanover Parkway has claimed the life of Mary Alice Carroll, 61, of the same address, according to MPO George Mathews of the Greenbelt Police Department. The Washington Post reported that nine people, including five firefighters, suffered injuries including burns and smoke inhalation.

A three-alarm fire relays to fire departments that every possible resource is needed. Nearly 100 firefighters were on the scene during the night.

Mayor Judith Davis said the dense smoke and flames went through the walls, spreading so rapidly that the stairwells were completely filled with smoke. Many people trapped inside the building went out onto their balconies to seek help. Because the interior floors of the 7806 building were collapsing, firemen had to exit and work from the outside.

At one point some firemen were returning to their trucks, believing that the fire had been contained. But when flames burst through the roof of the building, horns from other trucks were sounded, signaling that the fire was out of control. Three other buildings were evacuated — 7800, 7802 and 7804, Davis said. Firemen stood on the roofs of those buildings to wet them down and prevent a chain



PHOTO BY KARL PEÑA

A lone fire fighter stands on the front steps of 7806 Hanover Parkway. The area of the fire can be seen in the apartments to the left of the entrance from the terrace level up to the roof, each of these four apartments were burned out in Friday's fire at Greenbriar.

reaction. Those buildings were without power and water.

Almost all of the residents of 7800 and 7802 were allowed to return later when the utilities were restored. Building 7804 was also checked for structural damage. Residents were allowed to go in one by one to retrieve personal items.

The Greenbriar Community Building was set up as a headquarters. Four Red Cross volunteers were called to the scene at 11 p.m. for immediate disaster relief, according to Public Affairs Officer Courtney Prebich. They stayed until 5 a.m. providing lodging, food and clothing to

nine families.

— November 27, 2003

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Happy 70th Anniversary
to the Greenbelt News Review
from the members of
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Church and School.

CONGRATULATIONS
to the staff of the
Greenbelt News Review.
Thank you for all your hard work.

Jeannie Smith, GRI, American Realty, Inc.
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T'was a Dark and Stormy Night . . .

by the News Review Staff

Monday was definitely a dark and stormy night at the News Review office, where staff were preparing for the regular Tuesday editing of the paper. With a darkening sky threatening a big storm there was only a brief rain and nothing nearby of lightning or thunder but . . . down went the power, anyway, throwing the Community Center into near darkness, along with everything in the center and south end of town. Tantalizing but brief re-

sumptions of power had lights flickering on and off awhile, then the building was left with only the emergency exit and hall lights provided by a noisy emergency generator outside the News Review windows. After an hour of darkness, staff trickled off into the night – some to darkness at home, others to the north end of town, which did not lose power during the storm or its aftermath. Early birds who returned Tuesday to attend to papers left strewn

about in the dark found even more storm remnants to deal with – computers that would not work and a high-speed internet line that required expert attention. All day we limped through with dial-up that blocked anybody from reaching us by fax till our computer guru Neil McLeod managed to get the DSL up and running. We were freshly reminded of how slow the internet was before we acquired DSL.

– May 3, 2006



This tree downed behind the library was just one of many snapped like toothpicks in the strong winds.

Isabel Darkens Lights but Not Spirit

Isabel blew in Thursday night with 50 m.p.h. winds and 2 1/2 inches of rain in the metropolitan area. Along the way she uprooted thousands of trees and turned out millions of lights. The category 2 hurricane came ashore in the North Carolina Outer Banks and proceeded along a northwesterly path to the west of Washington toward the Great Lakes and Canada.

– September 25, 2003

An Eerie Silence; Neighbors Helping

by Virginia Beauchamp

There's nothing like the eerie silence after a great snowstorm. All the ordinary noises are muted – sounds of traffic, chirps of birds, car doors slamming, people calling back and forth. Tucked away in my house, snug in its warmth, I was enjoying the special silence of Monday's blanket of snow. As far as I could see, everything was white; everything was still.

Having enjoyed the purity of that view from my window, I turned my attention instead to tasks inside the house, keeping myself busy with mundane work at hand. But suddenly my thoughts were interrupted. I was hearing noises outside my front door, a kind of scraping sound. And naturally I looked out.

There, creating a path from the door outward toward the street, was a man shoveling vigorously. I hadn't hired him, nor had he signaled in any way that there was work to do. All I could see was the back of his jacket, with a Mickey Mouse design emblazoned across his shoulders, a brimmed hat covering his head, and the dip and thrust of his blue shovel.

I recognized him as my neighbor down the block, Marc Siegel, who was an elementary school and high school classmate of my own son John and who moved back with his family into the house where he grew up after his father's death. Out of pure neighborly spirit he was making it possible for me to reach out to the outside world.

– February 3, 2003

Groups, Businesses, Individuals Add to Katrina Relief Efforts

Hurricane Katrina has left many individuals and families in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama homeless and without necessary food and shelter. Local groups, businesses and individuals have geared up to provide a wide variety of support to relief efforts for the victims.

The following reports are a few of the many ways that Greenbelters have pitched in to help.

Seven City Police Help in Louisiana

On Saturday, Sept. 3 seven Greenbelt police officers along with the department's dragoon rescue vehicle (armored personnel carrier) and evidence van were sent to Jefferson Parish in Louisiana to assist in the relief effort in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. The rescue vehicle was carried on an 18-wheel tractor trailer provided by the Maryland Department of Transportation. The officers are expected to return home on Friday, Sept. 9. The Maryland Emergency Management Agency had requested the assistance.

Area Schools Aid Hurricane Victims

To assist in relief efforts, the county school system is sponsoring collection of financial donations to help victims of the disaster. All funds collected through September 30 will be presented to the American Red Cross.

Greenbelter Takes Direct Action

Rena Hull of Lakeside Drive left Monday for New Orleans. A retired pediatric nurse, she had volunteered last Thursday and received a call Sunday. She is working with a group from Maryland. The hospital they were first assigned to did not need them, so they were sent to another hospital. Hull reports the electricians there are busy restoring electricity to the building. The group will help set up clinics. Hull was Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen in 1999.

– September 8, 2005

A Snow Emergency of a Happier Nature

Another story has come to our attention concerning January's snowstorm. On Tuesday, January 21, Reverend Daniel Hamlin, pastor of Greenbelt Community Church received an emergency call from a lady in distress. "Do you perform weddings?" she asked.

"Yes," he replied.

"Can you do one today?" It seems her wedding plans had gone awry with the storm. All the relatives were there, they had the cake and there were gifts with January 21 inscribed upon

them. But the county courthouse was closed because of the storm and the couple could not get married as planned.

While Hamlin normally will not do a ceremony on such short notice, he agreed to do this one. He walked from his home in Boxwood to the church, got out the lawn tractor and plowed out the sidewalks and access to the handicap lift for the wedding party, walked home, shed his jeans and got into better clothes, came back to church and performed the ceremony.

– March 6, 2003

Greenbelters Feel Local Earthquake

An earthquake that measured 4.5 on the Richter scale, with an epicenter 30 miles west of Richmond, moved the earth under Greenbelt. Randy Crenwelge, who lives in a frame GHI townhome on Laurel Hill Road, said he was talking on the phone "and the whole house started shaking." He said it lasted just a few seconds and was accompanied by "a low rumble." He thought some-

one was working on a house next door, but then he turned on the news and heard about the quake.

City staff felt the tremor as a slight jiggle and noticed that items on shelves moved, according to David Moran, assistant to the city manager. The News Review staff, however, was unaware of the tremor, speculating that the old Community Center building is so solid that it doesn't shake.

– December 11, 2003

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PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

The "News Review Revue" performed by the Titans: Manasi Pukazhenth, Hannah Kempton, Amritha Jayanti, Hannah Butcher, Molly Jankowski, Hee Jin Suh, Kirin Taylor, Teresa Johnson and James Fahey.

A Review

Creative Kids Day Camp Bakes Up a Musical Winner

by Virginia Beauchamp

So what's my favorite scene in "The Cookie Caper," the musical ending the two-week Creative Kids day camp program? Campers from 6 to 12 years old performed it twice on Friday, July 13 in the Greenbelt Arts Center, once in the morning and once in the afternoon, for admiring parents and friends.

The choice was inevitable. It had to be scene 4, when that bunch of older kids, sleuthing around the (imaginary) Community Center for the purloined

cookies, entered the News Review office.

A group of Editors and Informed Citizens had just been singing "The News Review Revue":

"Do you review The News Review? The News Review? Indeed we do/ We all peruse the latest news/ We're thoroughly up to date.

"At times there's an omission/ But we swear we never sin/ It's always our ambition/ To put every story in/ But for over 60 years/ We've been run by volunteers/ And our budget is so

tight it's like a splint/ So we've adopted as our motto/ 'All the news that fits, We'll print.'"

Well, yes, that's right on. Sometimes we have to hold on to stories even for weeks, if there's not a pressing deadline. I also liked that line from Camper 7: "Reporters and editors are the ones who check sources and verify the facts." The kids had been discussing how outmoded we were, now that everyone uses blogs and text messaging. But with all the interventions, they say (and we agree), who can really trust those?

Other Scenes

What are the other places the kids explore in their search for the cookies? They have to locate clues on slips of paper, each clue leading to a new place inside, and finally outside, the building. It's really an old fashioned treasure hunt.

So they explore the ceramics studio, the nursery school, the art room, the museum exhibit room, the dark room (a really spooky place), the senior citizens' classroom, the theater rehearsal room and then the stone panels on the building's outer wall. And in each of these places we get a song and dance from a chorus of campers.

Each set of campers represents different groups of folks who hang out in the building and each set has T-shirts of a uniform color – the potters in yellow, the nursery school kids in blue, the newspaper crowd in tangerine, the painters in purple and the arts center folks in green.

The play is an original show by Camp Coordinator, the talented Christopher Cherry, with pianist Stefan Brodd. Scott Kincaid handles the lights and surprises us all when he storms out on to the stage. There's a surprise ending, but – shh – we have to keep the secret. I can only say that it's in harmony with Greenbelt's 1937 origin.

– April 1, 2004
April Fools!

– July 19, 2007

Casinos Are Coming to Greenbelt Donald Trumpe Plans Applauded

by Camden Yard

City officials were stunned to learn of massive manipulations taking place in the halls of the Maryland State House that will bring slots to Greenbelt and major new development to the city and its environs. The rapidly put-together package will bring gambling to the city in the largest casino expected to be built in Maryland and the east coast, two new hotels with more possible, a tournament golf course around a 500-acre lake, and a heliport to fly in gamblers. Because Greenbelt City will benefit from a huge increase in tax revenues resulting from the increased assessments on new construction and from its collection of the hotel-motel tax, city officials are rapidly joining the bandwagon of supporters that expect to see final approval reached in the legislature before its adjournment.

What has caused this rapid change of events is the entrance into the Maryland scene of famous land developer and casino owner Donald Trumpe. According to Senator Paul Pilsky, a new convert to gambling in Maryland, Trumpe considers Greenbelt to be the hottest real estate market on the east coast. What with plans to redevelop Springhill Lake and the oncoming Metroland development, land investors from all over the world are looking to get a piece of the action in Greenbelt, he

said. "I understand la Donnie barely beat out a consortium of Arab princes."

This paper has learned that for months, Trumpe had been working behind the scenes putting together a deal maker. He now has an agreement to purchase Capitol Office Park from its owners. The casino will be built on a five-acre vacant parcel located next to the Federal Courthouse on Ivy Lane. More than three football fields in length, the casino will be the largest on the east coast, with over 5,000 one-armed bandits.

What makes this development possible, according to Governor Herbert Ehrlich, is the agreement he pushed through the Busch administration to surplus 1,000 acres of adjacent Beltsville Agricultural Research Administration land currently not used for agricultural research purposes. The land will be sold to Trumpe at \$1 an acre, as it is mostly swampland. Ehrlich says the state will contribute its recently acquired wetlands forest located between Springhill and Metroland to the Trumpe package.

Trumpe envisions the adjacent swampland and floodplain to be drained by forming a scenic lake. Much of the reclaimed land will be used for parking lots for casino users. As a concession to city council concerns to keep Greenbelt

green, Trumpe, at considerable added expense, will use green asphalt in the lots.

The 36-hole championship course will be located along the shores of the lake, to be named in honor of President George Bush. Mayor Judith Davis applauded the name choice saying that it will be nice to have something named after a president other than Roosevelt.

The News Review Revue

Do you review the News Review?
The News Review? Indeed, we do!
We all peruse the latest news
We're thoroughly up to date.

Do you review the News Review?
The News Review? Indeed, we do!
We scan the page and rant and rage
If stories are wrong or late

At times there's an omission
But we swear we never sin
It's always our ambition
To put every story in
But for over sixty years
We've been run by volunteers
And our budget is so tight, it's like a splint
So we've adopted as our motto "All The News That Fits, We'll Print"
Do you review the News Review?
The News Review? Indeed, we do!
We all peruse the latest news
We're thoroughly up to date

Do you review the News Review?
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